



In This Issue

- ▶ [Managing Risks with Transcribed Prescriptions](#)

- ▶ [Registration Update](#)

- ▶ [CD Registers / Steroid and MAOI Cards](#)

- ▶ [New Online System for Hazardous Waste Forms](#)

- ▶ [safefood Campaign 2012](#)

- ▶ [CPD: Mental Health Symposium](#)

- ▶ [IMB Update on Herbal Medicines](#)

[Print Version »](#)

Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

This is the first monthly newsletter of 2012, following the first issue last December. The PSI intends and hopes that this monthly communication will be a useful and user-friendly communication channel with the profession. (If you want to print and keep as a hard copy, click on 'web version' at top of newsletter for a printable format.)

In particular we hope it will be a resource in relation to CPD and sharing learning on issues coming to the attention of the PSI from its various activities, including complaints, fitness to practise and inspections. This month we wish to highlight patient safety issues relating to the transcription of hospital/consultant prescriptions.

Next month sees the formal launch of the Irish Institute of Pharmacy and the National Forum on Pharmacy Education and Accreditation and there will further updates on these important initiatives in the coming months.

We would like to thank the many pharmacists who participated in our recent consultation on the draft core competency framework – your feedback and comments will be useful not only in the context of finalising the framework but also in the ongoing developments around CPD and the expansion of pharmacy practice.

Finally, the PSI would like to highlight to pharmacists when sending emails to the PSI that our email addresses are all @thepsi.ie. A small number of emails are being sent to people in the PSI to email addresses '@psi.ie' and so may never reach us. So we would ask that you ensure that you don't forget the 'the' in our email addresses. Thank you.

Managing Risks with Transcribed Prescriptions

The PSI has received a number of concerns relating to the risk of dispensing errors arising from transcribed hospital or consultant prescriptions, where these original prescriptions are subsequently transcribed on to GMS prescriptions and errors in transcription may not be identified easily by the pharmacist.

The PSI has been in communication with the HSE in relation to the current arrangements, suggesting that a system which facilitates more direct and immediate access by patients to a pharmacist with the original prescription, and which facilitates inter-professional communication, would be preferable.

In the interim, the PSI advises pharmacists that where such GMS prescriptions are presented for dispensing, the pharmacist should liaise with the GP and request a copy of the original prescription issued by the relevant consultant or hospital, as the pharmacist may wish to contact the originating prescriber as well as the GP in order to properly discharge their professional responsibilities.

Particular vigilance should be exercised in respect of paediatric prescriptions where transcription errors, especially in relation to dosage, could pose additional serious risks to patients if not detected by the pharmacist.

Registration Update

The PSI would like to thank pharmacists, pharmaceutical assistants and pharmacy owners for their cooperation with the continued registration process in November and December 2011, and in particular the increasing number of registrants who use the online registration facility. This facility was reviewed and improved during 2011 following feedback from the profession and any further feedback on how it could be further improved is welcome.

All registrants who applied for continued registration and whose certificates of registration expire on 31 December 2012 should by now have received their certificates of registration. In addition, pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants should have received their health professional registration cards. If you have not

received your certificate, please contact the PSI at registration@thepsi.ie.

CD Registers / Steroid and MAOI Cards

All pharmacies should have received a Duty Register for 2012, a new CD Register and a CD destruction record book last month. If you require further copies of the CD Register (for example if you wish to record methadone supply in a separate register), please email info@thepsi.ie to order further copies, which will be provided free-of-charge.

The PSI has been informed by the printers KPW Print Ltd that in a very small number of cases there may be some pages missing from the books, particularly the CD registers. Pharmacists are therefore requested to carry out a quick quality check of the books they have received to verify that no pages are missing. (A quick tip for checking the books is to check every 16th page from the start of the book as they are printed in sections of 8 or 16 pages. So for the CD register check page 16 is there, page 32 and so on; for the destruction book check page 1, page 17 and so on, and for the duty register the following dates: 17th Feb, 13th April, 8th June, 3rd August, 28th September, 23rd November.)

If you find you have a book with missing pages, please contact KPW for a replacement book at any of the following email addresses: brendandooley@kpw.ie, lisa@kpw.ie or darran@kpw.ie. KPW and the PSI apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The PSI will be distributing batches of steroid and MAOI cards free-of-charge to all pharmacies in the coming weeks, after which a template of the current versions of these cards will be available for download from the PSI website.

New Online System for Hazardous Waste Forms

The PSI has set out the pertinent requirements relating to waste documentation and the movement of waste in the [Guidelines on the Disposal of Medicinal Products within a Retail Pharmacy Businesses \(particularly Section 3.1.2\)](#), issued in 2011.

New legislation introduced in July 2011 made the National TFS Office in Dublin City Council the sole authority for the administration of hazardous waste movements within Ireland. The C1 form has been re-named the Waste Transfer Form (WTF). The fundamental change to the current C1 system is the move to an online system which will discontinue the requirement to use the current paper based system.

The National TFS Office has informed the PSI that this new online Waste Regulation Management System (WRMS) is now in place and available for the purchase WTFs. WTFs are now required to accompany all hazardous waste shipments taking place within Ireland from the 1st January 2012. This new WTF administration system requires consignors to purchase and fill in forms online. The information required is similar to that currently provided on a C1 form and payments may be made online through Dublin City Council's secure web site.

Further information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and guidance documents for users are available on [Dublin City Council's website](#).

safefood Campaign 2012

The next phase of the *safefood* public awareness campaign 'Stop the Spread' is now underway. This public awareness and education initiative dealing with overweight and obesity is endorsed by the PSI in recognition of the increasingly important role that pharmacists and pharmacies play in the protection and promotion of public health.

The initial phase of the campaign was well supported by the profession and the packs containing free measuring tapes and information are being distributed by *safefood* to pharmacies around the country who previously participated in the campaign. A Q and A sheet for healthcare professionals has been developed by *safefood* and is available from their [website](#).

For further information please contact the *safefood* helpline on 1850 40 45 67 or info@safefood.eu.

CPD: Mental Health Symposium

The National Mental Health Services Collaborative are hosting a national symposium

on 'Individual Care Planning: Enabling the Paradigm Shift to Recovery Focused Care - Lessons from the National Mental Health Services Collaborative' on Tuesday 7th February 2012 in the Burlington Hotel, Upper Leeson Street, Dublin 4.

According to the Project Sponsors of the Collaborative - St. Patricks University Hospital, Health Service Executive, St. John of God Hospital Limited and the Mental Health Commission (MHC) – the purpose of this symposium is to present results, share learning and develop plans to sustain and or spread the improvements relating to individual care planning and recovery.

Attendance at the symposium is free of charge and places are being allocated on a first come first served basis. Registration and the draft programme are available on the [MHC website](#).

IMB Update on Herbal Medicines

The Irish Medicines Board (IMB) has updated its Q and A document in relation to the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Registration Scheme, to inform manufacturers, wholesalers, importers and retailers of their requirements from 01 January 2012 onwards.

The updated document, which intends to assist retailers and others in ensuring that they are in compliance with IMB guidance, is available on the [IMB's website](#).

Queries in relation to this issue can be sent to herbalmedicines@imb.ie.

18 Shrewsbury Road,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4,
Ireland.

Phone: +353 1 2184000

Fax: +353 1 2837678

Email: info@thepsi.ie

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